

Message Text

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TAGS: ENRG, TECH, GW
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR ENERGY -- GERMAN PLAN TO CONSTRUCT
URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT

REF: BONN 19187

1. SUMMARY. URANIT, THE GERMAN PARTNER IN THE
DUTCH-BRITISH-GERMAN JOINT ENRICHMENT VENTURE URENCO,
PLANS TO CONSTRUCT A 1000 TON SWU GAS CENTRIFUGE
ENRICHMENT FACILITY. THE OUTPUT OF THE PLANT
PROJECTED TO ASSUME OPERATION IN 1985 WILL BE
SUFFICIENT FOR THE SUPPLY OF EIGHT 1300- MWE LIGHT-
WATER REACTORS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE GERMAN PLANS STEM MAINLY FROM THE UN-
CERTAINTIES ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE GERMAN/DUTCH
ENRICHMENT FACILITY AT ALMELO. THIS PLANT STARTED
OPERATION IN MID 1976 AND WILL REACH ITS PRESENT
MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF 200 TONS SWU IN 1978. THE
URENCO CONTRACTS PROVIDED FOR AN EXPANSION TO
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600 TONS SWU, BUT THIS GOAL SEEMS UNLIKELY BECAUSE

THE DUTCH INDUSTRIAL PARTNERS ARE RELUCTANT TO CONTINUE THEIR FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION. IN CASE OF SUCH A SHORTFALL, PROVISIONS FOR JOINT LIABILITY WOULD COMMIT URANIT TO FULFILL THE EXISTING ORDERS FOR ENRICHED URANIUM WHICH ALREADY AMOUNT TO DM 4 BILLION. FURTHERMORE THE JOINT CONTRACT CONTAINS A GERMAN OPTION TO INSTALL SUCH A PLANT.

3. THE URANIT PROJECT WOULD ALLOW FOR A FURTHER EX

EXPANSION OF THE PRODUCTION. THE INVESTMENT VOLUME IS ESTIMATED AT DM L BILLION AND THE ANNUAL TURNOVER AT DM 280-300 MILLION AT CURRENT VALUES. THE PRELIMINARY SITE INSPECTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND FOUR LOCATIONS HAVE BEEN PICKED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

4. THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FOUR POSSIBLE SITES FOR THE ENRICHMENT FACILITY, WHICH WILL BE SUBJECT TO A FORMAL NUCLEAR LICENSING PROCEDURE, CAUSED THE FIRST STRONG REACTIONS FROM NUCLEAR OPPOSITION GROUPS WHO SEEM DETERMINED TO HALT THE FURTHER EXPANSION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY BY ANY MEANS. THE ANTICIPATED RESISTANCE TO CONSTRUCTION OF THE ENRICHMENT PLANT IS CLOSELY CONNECTED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN INTEGRATED NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE CENTER (REF A). BOTH ARE CONSIDERED PREREQUISITES FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GERMANY'S DOMESTIC NUCLEAR GOALS. THE CITIZENS' INITIATIVES CONSIDER THEIR OPPOSITION AGAINST THESE FACILITIES AS "THE DECISIVE BATTLE". (SEE SEPTTEL). STOESSEL

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